

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002463/26
to the Commission
Georgiana Teodorescu (ECR)
(15 June 2026)

Subject: Total ban on exports of ovine and caprine animals from Romania to the EU and third countries

In view of the latest amendment to Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/638, the Commission has completely prohibited exports and movements of ovine and caprine animals from the entire territory of Romania to the EU and third countries until 31 December 2026.

This disproportionate measure places an economic blockade on a strategic sector with 11.87 million animals, causing massive losses to tens of thousands of families and risking the irreversible loss of external markets. Although Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 enshrines risk management through strict delimitation of protection and surveillance zones, the Commission has opted for a total national ban, imposing a veritable collective sanction.

In this context, I request the following clarifications from the Commission:

1. What specific epidemiological data and technical justifications formed the basis of the nationwide ban, ignoring the possibility of regionalisation in disease-free counties?
2. Why was permission not given to continue exporting from unaffected areas by applying strict supplementary guarantees (testing, quarantining, traceability) — a mechanism that has been used in the past for other Member States?
3. Is the Commission thinking of activating mechanisms of direct financial compensation for disproportionately affected Romanian farmers?

Submitted: 15.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2026)

1. The amendment to Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/638 was adopted following the outbreak of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) on 8 June 2026 in Mureş County for which the origin of the infection was not established and there was a high risk of further spread. Furthermore, preliminary results from the surveillance implemented in May and June 2026 confirm the hidden wide virus circulation in Romania in the last months.

2. The temporary prohibition of shipment of sheep and goats from Romania to other Member States and third countries is needed to protect the EU animal health status. It also protects the EU's single market by preventing risks of transmission to other Member States and to third countries while also considering risks of undetected circulation of the disease in Romania. These restrictions may be adapted once adequate measures implemented by Romania, including vaccination, provide sound evidence of absence of PPR in its sheep and goat population.

3. At the request of the Member State concerned, the Commission may adopt exceptional support measures for market losses linked to restrictions imposed to curb disease spread. In addition, under the Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans Regulation⁽¹⁾ Member States may support investments in restoration of agricultural production potential following animal disease outbreaks and may amend their plans to introduce crisis payments for farmers affected by animal diseases. They may also grant, under certain conditions, support to farmers in line with EU State aid rules.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2115/oj>).